

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AF-10 SSM-03 /090 W
-----049836 141209Z /40

R 141001Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4555
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0910

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: LIBYA

REF: (A) STATE 159747; (B) STATE 148783; (C) 76 STATE 37591

1. REFTEL C, PARA 7(A). LIBYA'S PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES HAVE REMAINED FAIRLY CONSISTENT SINCE COL. QADHAFI'S GOVERNMENT ASSUMED POWER IN SEPTEMBER 1969. SINCE THAT DATE THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONGST THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND EXPLOIT THAT GROUP FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING PRIMARY FOREIGN POLICY GOALS: THE ELIMINATION OF THE RIGHT OF VETO OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL; THE REMOVAL OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; THE DISEMBODIMENT OF THE ILO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE WEST HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND ULTIMATELY THE DESIRE TO MANIPULATE THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD INTO A POLITICAL FORCE TO BALANCE THE INFLUENCE OF THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION.

2. DURING BOTH THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN APRIL AND THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN MAY OF THIS
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YEAR WHICH WERE HELD IN TRIPOLI, THE LIBYANS PURSUED THEIR POLICY INITIATIVES BY INTRODUCING THE QUESTION OF THE UNSC VETO AND THE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL. IN THE PAST YEAR LIBYA HAS JOINED A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE OR PRUDENT, HAS ATTEMPTED TO INTRODUCE THESE ISSUES INTO THEIR AGENDAS.

3. REFTEL C, PARA 7(B). LIBYA'S MULTILATERAL POLICY MAKING AND DECISIONS ARE TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT UNIQUELY THE PURVIEW OF COL. QADHAFI. NEVERTHELESS, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DOES ACTIVELY SOLICIT COORDINATION AND SUPPORT FOR ITS ARAB REJECTIONIST POSITION WITH ALGERIA, IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN AND THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. LIBYANS HAVE ALSO COORDINATED THEIR MULTILATERAL FOREIGN POLICY GOALS WITH OTHER RADICAL THIRD-WORLD AND EASTERN-BLOC NATIONS AND THE SOVIET UNION.

4. A QUID PRO QUO FOR LIBYA'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES IS THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY VOICE SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND CONDEMN ISRAEL, AND SUPPORT LIBYA'S GOAL OF REFORMING THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MANY THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES ACCEPT THIS CAVEAT WHICH INVARIABLY APPEARS IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE DURING VISITS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO LIBYA. IN PURSUIT OF ITS GOAL OF A NON-ALIGNED LEADER, LIBYA HAS DEVELOPED CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

5. REFTEL C, PARA 7(C). LIBYAN DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THEIR COUNTRY IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ARE CAREFULLY INSTRUCTED AND FULLY CONVERSANT IN THE MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. COL. QADHAFI'S REGIME MAINTAINS EFFECTIVE AND CLOSE CONTROL OVER THESE DELEGATIONS DURING THE PROGRESS OF THESE MEETINGS. THE CONSISTENCY OF LIBYA'S MULTILATERAL

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INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES PRECLUDE THE NECESSITY FOR EXTENSIVE REPORTING BY HER DELEGATES AND THE FORMULATION OF NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LIBYAN CAPITAL.

6. REFTEL C, PARA 7(D). LIBYA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OR DELEGATE HEADS IN THE UN, GENEVA SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND MAJOR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NO INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER. THEY MERELY CARRY OUT GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS.

7. REFTEL C, PARA 7(E). THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT NORMALLY IS NOT RECEPTIVE TO US REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. COL. QADHAFI'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE US GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "CORDIALLY HOSTILE." THIS ATTITUDE STEMS MAINLY FROM WHAT THE LIBYANS PERCEIVED AS UNMITIGATED US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ALLEGED ISRAELI AIMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE LIBYANS ALSO VIEW US MULTINATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS AS INDICATIVE OF WESTERN EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE MATERIAL AND CULTURAL WEALTH OF THE THIRD WORLD. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DRAWS A DIRECT PARALLEL BETWEEN MULTILATERAL ISSUES AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US.

8. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SOLICIT US SUPPORT THROUGH

THE EMBASSY ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OF SUBSTANCE OR ITS PRIORITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. TO THE CONTRARY, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY TAKEN AN ANTAGONISTIC POSITION ON ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE SUPPORTED BY THE US. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY UNDER THE PRESENT REGIME OF COL. QADHAFI THAT LIBYA'S POLICY ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS WILL SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE.

9. AS INDICATED BY THE RESULTS OF THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, LIBYA CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE AT THE 31ST AND 32ND UNGA SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER THE ISSUE OF REFORMING THE UN CHARTER TO ABOLISH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RIGHT OF VETO. LIBYA WILL PROBABLY ALSO INTRODUCE THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION TO COUNTRIES WHICH WERE THE THEATERS OF WORLD WAR II "FOR LOSSES FROM ABANDONED WAR MATERIAL, AND IN PARTICULAR DAMAGES ARISING
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OUT OF MINES PLANTED BY FOREIGN POWERS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

10. EMBASSY TRIPOLI'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS
POLITICAL OFFICER BERNARD JOHNS.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TRIPOL00910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770250-1050
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770755/aaaabvbk.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b69566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 159747, 77 STATE 148783, 76 STATE 37591
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1855503
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: LIBYA
TAGS: PORG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b69566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009